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COUNTRY Greece

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SUBJECT Views of Markezinis

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1. Spyros Markezinis, the leader of the "New Party" has long believed that the Greek problem is a problem of time. It is important for Greece, according to Markezinis, to persuade the American public that war is unavoidable and that Greece is vital to American interests. It is of prime importance that Greece not collapse while war is still distant.
2. The present (i.e. Tsaldaris) Government has proved itself unable to settle the country's basic problems. Markezinis formed the "New Party" after the plebiscite and he is firm in his convictions regarding the national problem. Today a change in the government is necessary in order to restore Greece to the best possible circumstances for a war.
3. The present constitutional government of Greece is a valuable asset, and if the Government continues to govern according to its mandate, the requisite change will come. The efforts of the "New Party" are directed toward this end. Markezinis predicts that the present Government will fall within two or three months and will probably be succeeded by a "New Party" Government.
4. It is absolutely necessary to settle the question of the high command of the army, and the battle force should be increased. Mobile units with heavy fire power should be formed. He favors "increasing the Gendarmerie" with a term of military service, disapproves of arming the villagers, and insists that a general strategic plan must be strictly followed.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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